

### V. REMARKS

Claims 1-10 are provisionally rejected on the grounds of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 and 3-7 of copending Application No. 10/697,238. A Terminal Disclaimer is filed herewith to obviate the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Motegi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,817,946) in view of Basturk et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,600,527). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

In the gaming machine of present invention, the LCD panel, the diffusion sheet, the light guiding plate and the variable display device are arranged in this order from a player side as it is described claim 1. The gaming machine of present invention is composed so as to be seen the variable display device via the LCD panel. Besides, the LCD panel, the diffusion sheet and the light guiding plate are arranged facially-opposed sequential manner.

On the other hand, in the gaming machine of Motegi, the protection glass 1g, the half mirror 1m and the LCD panel 5 are arranged in this order from a player side as it is described Fig 5. Reels 6a, 6b, 6c are arranged on upper side of the half mirror 1m. By this, an image is displayed on the LCD panel 5 and an image of the reels 6a, 6b, 6c are reflected by the half mirror 1m, both images are overlapped. In other words, in the gaming machine of Motegi, the LCD panel 5 is situated on rear side of the half mirror 1m and rear side of the reels 6a, 6b, 6c in the obliquely downward direction. By doing it in this way, overlapping of both images is able to be realized. Therefore, an arrangement of the LCD 5 panel on front side of the reels 6a, 6b, 6c is impossible. Besides, the protection glass 1g, the half mirror 1m and the LCD panel 5 can not be arranged in facially-opposed sequential manner judging from a function of the half minor 1m.

Besides, the United States Patent and Trademark Office states that the arrangement of the LCD panel, the diffusion sheet and the light guiding plate of present invention is disclosed in Basturk. However, it is not clear which constitution of Basturk corresponds to the LCD panel, the diffusion sheet and the light guiding plate of present invention. It is respectfully submitted that the Applicants are perplexed by the position of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

In Motegi, since the LCD panel 5 is situated on rear side of reels 6a, 6b, 6c in the obliquely downward direction, even if Basturk is combined to Motegi, the present invention can not to be realized.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggest the features of the claims as discussed above. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine the features of the applied art because such combination would not result in the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are allowable over the applied art.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Further, Applicants assert that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicants hereby reserve the right to submit those other reasons and to argue for the patentability of claims not explicitly addressed herein in future papers.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this

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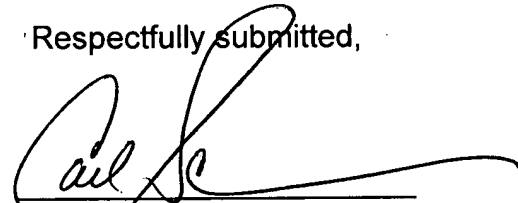
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paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 7, 2007

By:

  
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Enclosure(s):      Amendment Transmittal  
                            Petition for Extension of Time (two months)  
                            Terminal Disclaimer

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